

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1–10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting data packets in a communications system in a frame-oriented form between a master station and a plurality of subscribers, comprising:

exchanging useful data packets and control data packets between the master station and the subscribers, at least one of the useful data packets and the control data packets being stored in containers within a transmission frame;

storing an identifier in an information element within each of the containers within the transmission frame to identify a virtual connection to which at least one of the useful data packets belongs, the identifier indicating the connection to which at least one of the containers for [user] useful data packets transmitted by one of the subscribers to the master station belongs, wherein the information element is stored as two fields for the virtual connection, a first field for a connection identifier, and a second field for a number of subsequent containers for useful data packets for the virtual connection; and

freely dividing by the one of the subscribers a capacity allocated to the one of the subscribers by the master station among [user] useful data packets and control data packet.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the storing step includes storing the identifier within at least one of the control data packets.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

transmitting the identifier in the information element, the information element including at least connection identifiers for subsequent containers for useful data packets of one connection.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the storing step includes storing one connection identifier in the information element for every container for useful data packets.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the storing step includes storing in a header of the information element a type of fields contained in the information element.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the storing step includes storing in the information element a length of the information element.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the storing step includes storing in the information element a field indicating for two other fields whether the two other fields specify: one connection ID and for a number of useful data packets for the one connection ID, or two connection IDs.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein a connection between the master station and the one of the subscribers stipulates whether containers for useful data packets in the transmission frame are filled with a plurality of control data packets.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

allocating terminal resources per subscriber or per subscriber terminal, the subscriber or subscriber terminal selecting the useful data packets of different connections.